Converting toxic underground water into potable water

1055. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up any scheme for converting toxic underground water into potable water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. However, Government of India assists State Governments through the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Under ARWSP 20% of the funds provided to the States are earmarked for tackling water quality problems.

Non-availability of data regarding BPL population

1056. SHRI R.C. SINGH:
SHRI K. E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-availability of BPL data in the States has been the biggest bottleneck in implementing various welfare schemes targeted for BPL population;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to undertake a survey to identify the real BPL population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The BPL Census to identify the poor households living in the rural areas is carried out generally in the beginning of a Five Year Plan so that they could be provided assistance under different programmes of the Ministry. The last BPL Census 2002 was conducted for the 10th Five Year Plan, however, there was a considerable delay in finalizing its results as the matter was subjudice. In this situation, the States and UTs have been using the BPL list prepared on the basis of BPL Census 1997. After the vacation of the stay on 14.2.2006, the States were issued detailed guidelines to finalise the BPL list on the basis of BPL Census 2002. Many States took considerable time to decide the cut off scores and to dispose of a large number of appeals received under the two-stage appeal mechanism to redress the public grievances. Most of the States/UTs have finalized the BPL list except Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Manipur, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura, Lakshadweep and Puducherry.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development has already constituted an Expert Group to recommend the suitable methodology for undertaking the next BPL Census. The Expert Group is expected to submit its report within six months and the next Census is to be conducted based on the new methodology.